

Claim 17 (Amended)

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An optical arrangement in an illumination beam path of a confocal laser microscope comprising:

a point-like light source operatively arranged to emit an illumination beam along said illumination beam path; and,

an illumination optical system arranged in said illumination beam path for modifying an illumination diameter of said illumination beam of said microscope, wherein said illumination optical system is a zoom optical system which operates steplessly and a focus of the zoom optical system remains at a location of said point-like source. 9

Claim 24 (Amended)

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The optical arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said microscope includes a plurality of predefined objectives selectively positionable in said illumination beam path, and said illumination optical system is operatively arranged to modify said illumination diameter to match an entry pupil of a selected one of said plurality of objectives.

Claim 25 (Amended)

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The optical arrangement according to claim 25, wherein said illumination optical system is operatively arranged to automatically modify said illumination diameter.

Claim 38 (Amended)

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An optical arrangement in an illumination beam path of a confocal laser microscope comprising:

a point-like light source operatively arranged to emit an illumination beam along said illumination beam path;

an illumination optical system arranged in said illumination beam path for modifying an illumination diameter of said illumination beam of said microscope, wherein said illumination optical system is a zoom optical system which operates steplessly and a focus of the zoom optical system remains at a location of said point-like source; and,

an additional input whereby a laser light beam from a further light source can be coupled in to said illumination beam path via an additional input and is adaptable to an entry pupil of an objective of said microscope with no adaptation of said actual illumination beam path.